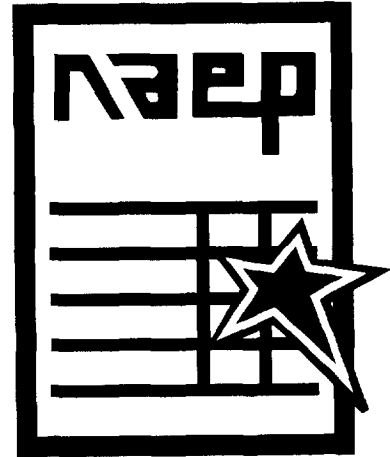


**THE NATION'S  
REPORT  
CARD**



**1994 Assessment  
READING-PUBLIC RELEASE  
Grade 12**

**Number of Items: 11**

## SECTION 23

Section 23

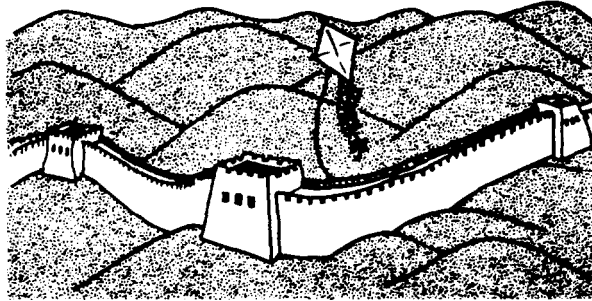
In this section, you will have 25 minutes to read a story and answer 11 questions about it. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only one oval for each question or write your answer on the lines. Please think carefully about your answers. When you are writing your answers, be sure that your handwriting is clear.

Do not go past the STOP sign at the end of the section. If you finish before time is called, you should go over your work again and change anything that you think will make your answers better.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE AND BEGIN READING NOW.

RAY BRADBURY

## The Flying Machine



IN THE year A.D. 400, the Emperor Yuan held his throne by the Great Wall of China, and the land was green with rain, readying itself toward the harvest, at peace, the people in his dominion neither too happy nor too sad.

Early on the morning of the first day of the first week of the second month of the new year, the Emperor Yuan was sipping tea and fanning himself against a warm breeze, when a servant ran across the scarlet and blue garden tiles, calling, "Oh, Emperor, Emperor, a miracle!"

"Yes," said the Emperor, "the air is sweet this morning."

"No, no, a miracle!" said the servant, bowing quickly.

"And this tea is good in my mouth, surely that is a miracle."

"No, no, Your Excellency."

"Let me guess then—the sun has risen and a new day is upon us. Or the sea is blue. That now is the finest of all miracles."

"Excellency, a man is flying!"

"What?" The Emperor stopped his fan.

"I saw him in the air, a man flying with wings, I heard a voice call out of the sky, and when I looked up, there he was, a dragon in the heavens with a man in its mouth, a dragon of

paper and bamboo, colored like the sun and the grass."

"It is early," said the Emperor, "and you have just wakened from a dream."

"It is early, but I have seen what I have seen! Come, and you will see it too."

"Sit down with me here," said the Emperor. "Drink some tea. It must be a strange thing, if it is true, to see a man fly. You must have time to think of it, even as I must have time to prepare myself for the sight."

They drank tea.

"Please," said the servant at last, "or he will be gone."

The Emperor rose thoughtfully. "Now you may show me what you have seen."

They walked into a garden, across a meadow of grass, over a small bridge, through a grove of trees, and up a tiny hill.

"There!" said the servant.

The Emperor looked into the sky.

And in the sky, laughing so high that you could hardly hear him laugh, was a man; and the man was clothed in bright papers and reeds to make wings and a beautiful yellow tail, and he was soaring all about like the largest bird in a universe of birds, like a new dragon in a land of ancient dragons.

The man called down to them from high in the cool winds of morning. "I fly! I fly!"

The servant waved to him. "Yes, yes!"

The Emperor Yuan did not move.

Instead, he looked at the Great Wall of China now taking shape out of the farthest mist in the green hills, that splendid snake of stones which writhed with majesty across the entire land. That wonderful wall which had protected them for a timeless time from enemy hordes and preserved peace for years without number. He saw the town, nestled to itself by a river and a road and a hill, beginning to waken.

"Tell me," he said to his servant, "has anyone else seen this flying man?"

"I am the only one, Excellency," said the servant, smiling at the sky, waving.

The Emperor watched the heavens another minute and then said, "Call him down to me."

"Ho, come down, come down! The Emperor wishes to see you!" called the servant, hands cupped to his shouting mouth.

The Emperor glanced in all directions while the flying man soared down the morning wind. He saw a farmer, early in his fields, watching the sky, and he noted where the farmer stood.

The flying man alit with a rustle of paper and a creak of bamboo reeds. He came proudly to the Emperor, clumsy in his rig, at last bowing before the old man.

"What have you done?" demanded the Emperor.

"I have flown in the sky, Your Excellency," replied the man.

"What have you done?" said the Emperor again.

"I have just told you!" cried the flier.

"You have told me nothing at all."

The Emperor reached out a thin hand to touch the pretty paper and the bird-like keel of the apparatus. It smelled cool, of the wind.

"Is it not beautiful, Excellency?"

"Yes, too beautiful."

"It is the only one in the world!" smiled the man. "And I am the inventor."

"The only one in the world?"

"I swear it!"

"Who else knows of this?"

"No one. Not even my wife, who would think me mad with the sun. She thought I was making a kite. I rose in the night and walked to the cliffs far away. And when the morning breezes blew and the sun rose, I gathered my courage, Excellency, and leaped from the cliff. I flew! But my wife does not know of it."

"Well for her, then," said the Emperor. The sun was full in the sky now, and the smell of the grass was refreshing. The Emperor, the servant, and the flier paused within the huge garden.

The Emperor clapped his hands. "Ho, guards!"

The guards came running.

"Hold this man."

The guards seized the flier.

"Call the executioner," said the Emperor.

"What's this!" cried the flier, bewildered.

"What have I done?" He began to weep, so that the beautiful paper apparatus rustled.

"Here is the man who has made a certain machine," said the Emperor, "and yet asks us what he has created. He does not know himself. It is only necessary that he create, without knowing why he has done so, or what this thing will do."

The executioner came running with a sharp silver ax. He stood with his naked, large-muscled arms ready, his face covered with a serene white mask.

"One moment," said the Emperor. He turned to a nearby table upon which sat a machine that he himself had created. The Emperor took a tiny golden key from his own neck. He fitted this key to the tiny, delicate machine and wound it up. Then he set the machine going.

The machine was a garden of metal and jewels. Set in motion, birds sang in tiny metal trees, wolves walked through miniature forests, and tiny people ran in and out of sun and shadow, fanning themselves with miniature fans, listening to the tiny emerald birds, and standing by impossibly small but tinkling fountains.

"Is it not beautiful?" said the Emperor. "If you asked me what I have done here, I could answer you well. I have made birds sing, I have made forests murmur, I have set two people to walking in this woodland, enjoying the leaves and shadows and songs. That 'is what I have done.'"

"But, oh, Emperor!" pleaded the flier, on his knees, the tears pouring down his face. "I have done a similar thing! I have found beauty. I have flown on the morning wind. I have looked down on all the sleeping houses and gardens. I have smelled the sea and even seen it, beyond the hills, from my high place. And I have soared like a bird; oh, I cannot say how beautiful it is up there, in the sky, with the wind about me, the wind blowing me here like a feather, there like a fan, the way the sky smells in the morning! And how free one feels! That is beautiful, Emperor, that is beautiful too!"

"Yes," said the Emperor sadly, "I know it must be true. For I felt my heart move with you in the air, and I wondered: What is it like? How does it feel? How do the distant pools look from so high? And how my house and servants? Like ants? And how the distant towns not yet awake?"

"Then spare me!"

"But there are times," said the Emperor, more sadly still, "when one must lose a little beauty if one is to keep what little beauty one already has. I do not fear you, yourself, but I fear another man."

"What man?"

"Some other man who, seeing you, will build a thing of bright papers and bamboo like this. But the other man will have an evil face and an evil heart, and the beauty will be gone.

It is this man I fear."

"Why? Why?"

"Who is to say that someday just such a man, in just such an apparatus of paper and reed, might not fly in the sky and drop huge stones upon the Great Wall of China?" said the Emperor.

No one moved or said a word.

"Off with his head," said the Emperor.

The executioner whirled his silver ax.

"Burn the kite and the inventor's body, and bury their ashes together," said the Emperor.

The servant retreated to obey.

The Emperor turned to his hand servant, who had seen the man flying. "Hold your tongue. It was all a dream, a most sorrowful and beautiful dream. And that farmer in the distant field who also saw, tell him it would pay him to consider it only a vision. If ever the word passes around, you and the farmer die within the hour."

"You are merciful, Emperor."

"No, not merciful," said the old man. Beyond the garden wall he saw the guards burning the beautiful machine of paper and reeds that smelled of the morning wind. He saw the dark smoke climb into the sky. "No, only very much bewildered and afraid." He saw the guards digging a tiny pit wherein to bury the ashes. "What is the life of one man against those of a million others? I must take solace from that thought."

He took the key from its chain about his neck and once more wound up the beautiful miniature garden. He stood looking out across the land at the Great Wall, the peaceful town, the green fields, the rivers and streams. He sighed. The tiny garden whirled its hidden and delicate machinery and set itself in motion; tiny people walked in forests, tiny foxes loped through sun-speckled glades in beautiful shining pelts, and among the tiny trees flew little bits of high song and bright blue and yellow color, flying, flying, flying in that small sky.

"Oh," said the Emperor, closing his eyes, "look at the birds, look at the birds!"

WO000189

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Ray Bradbury.

1. Which group of words best helps you to understand the message of this story?

- A Strength, joy, humor
- B Foolishness, anger, endurance
- C Communication, friendship, honesty
- D Fear, frustration, bewilderment

WO000301

2. Why does the Emperor ask the inventor twice, "What have you done?"

WO000308

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3. The Emperor seems to view the Great Wall as a

- A protector of his way of life
- B popular tourist attraction
- C symbol of the human spirit
- D way to prevent people from escaping

WO000304

4. Why did the Emperor ask the servant if anyone else had seen the inventor flying?

WO000305

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5. What does the flying machine symbolize in this story?

WO000307

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- WO000671

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



7. The Emperor did not rush out to see the flying machine when his servant first told him about it because the Emperor

**A** was too frail to run  
**B** had just awakened from a dream  
**C** wanted time to think about what it might mean  
**D** was testing the servant's loyalty to him

WO000306

8. Think about the impact of inventions on your life and the Emperor's decision to kill the inventor. Do you agree or disagree with the Emperor's decision? Tell why.

WO000318

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9. The Emperor suggests that creative talents should be used to

**A** build airplanes  
**B** make elaborate toys  
**C** tear down walls  
**D** discipline servants

WO000309

10. Who does the Emperor believe should be responsible for an invention?  
Why does he think this?

WO000316

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11. What is the major conflict in the story?

WO000312

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## NAEP READING CLASSIFICATION CODES

### PROP

NAVER - NAEP Verbal

### FIELD 1

N29R Reading

### FIELD 2

1- Grade 4  
1/2 - Grades 4 and 8  
2 Grade 8  
2/3 Grades 8 and 12  
3 Grade 12

### FIELD 3

MC - Multiple Choice  
SCR - Short Constructed Response  
ECR - Extended Constructed Response

### FIELD 4

IU - Initial Understanding  
DI - Developing an Interpretation  
PR - Personal Response  
CS - Critical Stance

### FIELD 5

Lit - Literary  
Inf - Informative  
Tsk - Task

•(Branched if **Literary** option  
is selected in Field 5)

### FIELD 6

WTT - Within text theme  
AT - Abstract theme  
CT - Character traits  
CF - Character functions  
ME - Major Events  
PRO - Problem  
CON - Conflict  
RES - Resolution  
SET - Setting  
VOC - Vocabulary  
LD - Literary Devices

•Branched if **Informative** option  
is selected in Field 5)

### FIELD 6

CP - Central Purpose  
MI - Major Ideas  
SI - Supporting Ideas  
AA - Adjunct Aids  
VOC - Vocabulary

•(Branched if **Task** option  
is selected in Field 5)

### FIELD 6

CP - Central Purpose  
KI - Key Information  
KOF - Key organizing Features  
KG - Key Graphics  
IKF - Interrelationship of Key Features  
VOC - Vocabulary

# 1994 Reading Items

GRADE: 08

BLOCK: 25R3

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>NAEP ID</u>	<u>SHORT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>KEY</u>	<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>PROCESS</u>	<u>P-VALUE</u>	<u>RELEASE STATUS</u>
1	R013101	FLYING MACHINE: WORDS HELP UNDERSTAND-FEAR	4	1	1	0.470	P
2A	R013102	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) EMPEROR ASKS INVENTOR		1	2	0.517	P
3	R013103	FLYING MACHINE: EMPEROR VIEWS WALL-PROTECTOR	1	1	2	0.733	P
4A	R013104	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) EMP ASKS SERVANT-WHO ELSE		1	2	0.622	P
5A	R013105	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) MACHINE SYMBOLIZES		1	4	0.283	P
6A	R013106	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) WOULD EMPEROR AGREE		1	3	0.432	P
7	R013107	FLYING MACHINE: EMP NOT RUSH TO SEE-TO THINK	3	1	2	0.585	P
8A	R013108	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) AGREE WITH EMPEROR		1	3	0.001	P
9	R013109	FLYING MACHINE: TALENTS SHOULD BE USED-TOYS	2	1	2	0.357	P
10A	R013110	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) WHO RESPONDS-INVENTIONS		1	4	0.466	P
11A	R013111	FLYING MACHINE: (OE) MAJOR CONFLICT		1	2	0.171	P

**Content:** 1 = Literary Experience  
 2 = To get information  
 3 = To perform a task

**Process:** 1 = Initial understanding  
 2 = Develop understanding  
 3 = Personal response  
 4 = Critical stance

Item Number: 1      Accession Number: W0000301  
Key: D  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 2/3 LIT SH IU AT NA

Item Number: 2      Accession Number: W0000308  
Key: NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 03 LIT SH DAI ME NA  
\*N23R 02 LIT SH DAI ME NA

Item Number: 3      Accession Number: W0000304  
Key: A  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 2/3 LIT SH DAI AT NA

Item Number: 4      Accession Number: W0000305  
Key: NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 02 LIT SH DAI PRB NA  
\*N23R 03 LIT SH DAI PRB NA

Item Number: 5      Accession Number: W0000307  
Key: NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 02 LIT SH CS LD NA  
\*N23R 03 LIT SH CS LD NA

Item Number: 6      Accession Number: W0000671  
Key: NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 03 LIT SH PR AT NA  
\*N23R 02 LIT SH PR AT NA

Item Number: 7      Accession Number: W0000306  
Key: C  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 2/3 LIT SH DAI CT NA

Item Number: 8      Accession Number: W0000318  
Key: NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 03 LIT SH PR AT NA  
\*N23R 02 LIT SH PR AT NA

Item Number: 9      Accession Number: W0000309  
Key: B  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 2/3 LIT SH DAI SLT NA

Item Number: 10      Accession Number: W0000316  
Key:      NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 03      LIT      SH      CS      F M C      N A  
\*N23R 02      LIT      SH      CS      F M C      N A

Item Number: 11      Accession Number: W0000312  
Key:      NONE  
Classification Codes:  
N23R 03      LIT      SH      DAI      C O N      N A  
\*N23R 02      LIT      SH      DAI      C O N      N A

Item Number: 2 Accession Number: WO000308

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	03	LIT	SH	DAI	ME	NA
*N23R	02	LIT	SH	DAI	ME	NA

Why does the Emperor ask the inventor twice, "What have you done?"

Rationale Text:

**4 = Acceptable**

Appropriate answers indicate either that the Emperor wanted the inventor to see the error of his ways or that the Emperor was not getting the answer that he wanted from the inventor.

**1 = Unacceptable**

Inappropriate answers provide an explanation that is inconsistent with the information contained in the story. For example:

The Emperor was hard of hearing.

The inventor was not speaking clearly.

Item Number: 4 Accession Number: WO000305

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	02	LIT	SH	DAI	PRB	NA
*N23R	03	LIT	SH	DAI	PRB	NA

Why did the Emperor ask the servant if anyone else had seen the inventor flying?

Rationale Text:

**4 = Acceptable**

Acceptable answers indicate one of the following:

The Emperor was worried that the news about the invention would spread.

He may have had plans to locate anyone else who saw the invention and have them killed as well.

**1 = Unacceptable**

Because he thought he was dreaming.

The Emperor wanted to say he saw it first.



Item Number: 5 Accession Number: WO000307

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	02	LIT	SH	CS	LD	NA
*N23R	03	LIT	SH	CS	LD	NA

What does the flying machine symbolize in this story?

Rationale Text:

**4 = Acceptable**

Acceptable responses indicate one of the following:

- that it symbolizes scientific progress or innovation which threatens the Emperor's policy of isolationism
- it symbolizes the conflict in the Emperor's mind between isolationism and progress
- how things are changing
- freedom
- creativity
- threat

**1 = Unacceptable**

- a bird
- a plane
- wanting to fly
- the race against time
- a dragon
- invention
- jealousy

Item Number: 6 Accession Number: WO000671

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	03	LIT	SH	PR	AT	NA
*N23R	02	LIT	SH	PR	AT	NA

Some people could believe that "The only circumstance in which we are justified in taking the life of another person is in self-defense." Would the Emperor agree with this statement? Explain why or why not, using the information contained in the story.

Rationale Text:

**SCORING GUIDE**

**Stance**

Critical Stance

**General Scoring Rubric**

Demonstrates an understanding of the character of the Emperor and the meaning of "justifiable killing." Understands the potential for subverting good inventions to evil. The reader may construe "self defense" as referring to defending the Emperor himself or society in general.

**Scoring Rationale**

The directions require students to

1. provide evidence that they understand justifiable killing in self-defense;
2. provide evidence that they understand the character of the Emperor.

1. Unsatisfactory. These responses demonstrate little, no, or an incorrect understanding of justifiable killing or the character of the Emperor by providing bits of information from the story that do not address the issue raised by the question. For example:

- a. "The Emperor would agree because of all of the things he has done to hurt people."
- b. "This story is about a flying machine."
- c. "The Emperor wouldn't because he executed people."

2. Partial. These responses demonstrate some understanding of the character of the Emperor or justifiable killing by providing an explanation of only one of these points. For example:

- a. "The Emperor would agree with the statement because he believes it is justified to take someone's life in self-defense."
- b. "No. He believes it is his responsibility to protect the people."

3. Essential.

These responses demonstrate a basic understanding of the character of the Emperor and justifiable killing by providing an opinion about the Emperor's stance on the issue and interpreting events in the story as a way of explaining what the Emperor's stance would be. The stance taken in the response may not be explicitly stated, but is clearly implied.

a. "No, the Emperor would not agree. He murdered the defenseless inventor."

b. "No, the Emperor would not agree because he destroyed the invention and threatened to kill anyone who even saw it."

c. "Yes, the Emperor may agree because he felt that killing the inventor was in defense of their land and lifestyle."

4. Extensive.

These responses demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the Emperor's character by providing an explanation of his philosophy of justifiable killing and an explanation based on the events and actions of the story that help in interpreting the behavior of the Emperor. For example:

a. "No, the Emperor would not agree. The Emperor seems to believe that it is more important to protect the safety of all of the people by looking at things from the worst possible viewpoint. Instead of thinking about all of the great things that a flying machine could do for his people (like increase travel and exchange of goods) he is threatened by it."

b. "I don't know what the Emperor would think. On the one hand, he seemed to recognize the great beauty and potential of the flying machine, but on the other hand, his own fear of what could possibly happen in the future led him to justify in his own mind killing the inventor and threatening to kill anyone who even knew of the invention. I think that at one level he knows he's wrong to be so worried about progress, and at another level he feels that it is safest to be conservative."

Item Number: 8      Accession Number: WO000318

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	03	LIT	SH	PR	AT	NA
*N23R	02	LIT	SH	PR	AT	NA

Think about the impact of inventions on your life and the Emperor's decision to kill the inventor. Do you agree or disagree with the Emperor's decision? Tell why.

Rationale Text:

#### **4 = Acceptable**

Acceptable answers identify an appropriate invention--one that could be both good and bad -- or explain why the invention supports/counters the Emperor's decision.

For example, some students might cite the invention of atomic energy and say that the Emperor was wrong to control progress the way he did since he might have cheated his people out of life-saving medicine because it had the potential to be abused.

"Airplanes are a good means of transportation, but they can also be used to drop bombs. The Emperor was afraid the flying machine might eventually be used to destroy his country."

"The invention of the telephone has had a great impact on our lives. If someone had stopped the invention of it, like the Emperor did, long distance communication and international relations would not exist as we know it."

#### **3 = Partial**

Partial answers may discuss the impact of inventions on our lives or the appropriateness of the Emperor's decision, but the ideas are not linked so that the Emperor's decision is supported or countered.

"Computers have made such an impact on our lives today. I don't know where we would be if we didn't have them. The Emperor was wrong."

"The Emperor was just a frightened old man. He was foolish for not allowing the inventor to show off his wonderful flying machine. I think airplanes are wonderful."

#### **1 = Unacceptable**

"Microwave ovens let me cook faster."

Any answer that does not identify a specific invention. "We have many wonderful inventions today. The Emperor doesn't care about anything but himself."

Item Number: 10 Accession Number: WO000316

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	03	LIT	SH	CS	FMC	NA
*N23R	02	LIT	SH	CS	FMC	NA

Who does the Emperor believe should be responsible for an invention? Why does he think this?

Rationale Text:

**4 = Acceptable**

Acceptable responses must answer both of the posed questions and may include the following:

He (the Emperor) thinks this way because he believes that progress will destroy their peaceful existence.

If the inventor realizes that his/her invention may destroy or alter their peaceful existence, then it should not be invented.

The Emperor, because he is the ruler.

The Emperor, so he can control its use.

**1 = Unacceptable**

Answers that state only the consequences - "he will be killed"

"The servant"

"He does because he wants it to be his invention."

Item Number: 11 Accession Number: WO000312

Key: NONE

Classification Codes:

N23R	03	LIT	SH	DAI	CON	NA
*N23R	02	LIT	SH	DAI	CON	NA

What is the major conflict in the story?

Rationale Text:

**4 = Acceptable**

Appropriate answers identify a conflict in the story either at the story level or the theme level. Acceptable conflicts include:

- The Emperor wanted things to stay the same but the inventor introduced change (in the form of the flying machine).
- The Emperor struggles with himself about allowing progress while trying to contain its evil effects.
- The basic conflict is between good and evil Good being either the protection of the status quo or the introduction of new technology; bad being either the protection of the status quo or the introduction of new technology.
- The basic conflict is between progress and tradition. Progress as represented by the flying machine, and tradition as represented by the Emperor.

**1 = Unacceptable**

Student Sample Responses

2. Why does the Emperor always ask twice, "What have you done?"

The inventor had not realized the effects of his inventions and the emperor wanted him to realize all the good that could come out of his inventions, the inventor only thought it a thing of beauty.

Level:

Acceptable (4)

2. Why does the Emperor ask the inventor twice, "What have you done?"

Because maybe he didn't hear him the first time.

Level:

Unacceptable (1)

Student Sample Responses

4. Why did the Emperor ask the servant if anyone else had seen the inventor flying?

Because he didnt want the  
word geting around about the  
flying machine.

Level:

Acceptable (4)

4. Why did the Emperor ask the servant if anyone else had seen the inventor flying?

Because the king thought he  
had just awoken and he thought  
it was just in the servants  
dreams.

Level:

Unacceptable (1)



Student Sample Responses

5. What does the flying machine symbolize in this story?

Maybe the loss of isolationism and the beginning of cultural interdependence and diffusion, which was obviously what the Emperor did not want.

Level:

Acceptable (4)

5. What does the flying machine symbolize in this story?

It is a kite.

Level:

Unacceptable (1)

Student Sample Responses

6. Some people could believe that "The only circumstance in which we are justified in taking the life of another person is in self-defense." Would the Emperor agree with this statement? Explain why or why not, using the information contained in the story.

I think that the Emperor agrees with this statement because he fears that the peace of his country will be destroyed. The Emperor sees the flying machine as a threat instead of a way of transportation or sheer joy. The Emperor is perhaps against advancement because he feels that it only allows for a way for people to tear down the Great Wall.

The Emperor has the inventor executed because he fears the defense of his country. By allowing people to gain knowledge of this flying machine, the Emperor feels that the "evil" people will use it against the country. Therefore, the Emperor feels justified in having the inventor put to death.

Level:

Extensive (4)

Student Sample Responses

6. Some people could believe that "The only circumstance in which we are justified in taking the life of another person is in self-defense." Would the Emperor agree with this statement? Explain why or why not, using the information contained in the story.

No, I don't think he would agree with this statement because he is a person who wants things done his way because he is the boss. And even if he did agree with it he is too proud to admit it. The Emperor believes that if this intention is seen around, others will use the idea and invent something much better and they will use this to escape over the Great Wall of China.

Level:  
Essential (3)

6. Some people could believe that "The only circumstance in which we are justified in taking the life of another person is in self-defense." Would the Emperor agree with this statement? Explain why or why not, using the information contained in the story.

He would disagree. The Emperor thinks he can take anyone's life whenever he feels like it.

Level:  
Partial (2)

## Student Sample Responses

6. Some people could believe that “The only circumstance in which we are justified in taking the life of another person is in self-defense.” Would the Emperor agree with this statement? Explain why or why not, using the information contained in the story.

No, because all of the people  
in his town are joyful people.

**Level:**

**Unsatisfactory (1)**

Student Sample Responses

8. Think about the impact of inventions on your life and the Emperor's decision to kill the inventor. Do you agree or disagree with the Emperor's decision? Tell why.

I disagree because I think the Emperor is stunting the progress of the people. I think he wants to keep them at the same level that they are at and that is not fair to them. They deserve to advance and become better.

Level:

Acceptable (4)

8. Think about the impact of inventions on your life and the Emperor's decision to kill the inventor. Do you agree or disagree with the Emperor's decision? Tell why.

I disagree because the machine in one way or another could have been an advantage to him against his enemies.

Level:

Partial (3)

Student Sample Responses

8. Think about the impact of inventions on your life and the Emperor's decision to kill the inventor. Do you agree or disagree with the Emperor's decision? Tell why.

NO, because if he is  
smart enough to invent  
something he should  
be allowed to do it

**Level:**

**Unacceptable (1)**

Student Sample Responses

10. Who does the Emperor believe should be responsible for an invention?  
Why does he think this?

He thinks the one to be responsible  
for an invention is, the inventor himself  
cause the emperor believes that those with  
great talent, should use it wisely.

Level:

Acceptable (4)

10. Who does the Emperor believe should be responsible for an invention?  
Why does he think this?

The evil man with an evil heart,

Level:

Unacceptable (1)

Student Sample Responses

11. What is the major conflict in the story?

whether to save the Emperor  
and his people from an invention that  
maybe used against them. or let  
the city grow in knowledge with  
this new invention and take chances.

Level:

Acceptable (4)

11. What is the major conflict in the story?

The emperor is jealous  
because someone else  
invented something.

Level:

Unacceptable (1)